

Marne 6 Sends Division continues non-lethal relentless pursuit

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

As the Division Headquarters heads into its last 100 days, we remain focused on "relentless pursuit" of the enemy. The combination of our major operations are squeezing al Qaeda out of our area, and giving them no where to hide.

While we are always focused on the kinetic fight, we are equally focused on the non-kinetic fight, and continue to relentlessly pursue success in the transition, governance, economics, and communication lines of operation.

We have increased our focus toward the Iraqi security forces. The new Task Force Marne Non-Commissioned Officer Academy develops Iraqi non-commissioned officers to be stronger leaders, which strengthens the Iraqi army, Iraqi police, and national police. We are increasing the number of our transition teams to ensure that key

units are partnered, and we are finally making headway in assisting with the equipping of the Iraqi security forces.

All of our operations are in coordination with the ISF, and I find myself talking with their leadership as often as I talk to my own subordinate commanders. Our ISF partners are truly our brothers in arms.

Our young company commanders at our 53 patrol bases are almost the mayors of their towns. Every day they bring together the local sheikhs, the ISF, and the Sons of Iraq to discuss issues.

Across the battlefield, these groups are forming local councils, and our leaders are working to link them with the next higher council in order to get their projects funded and their goals



recognized.

In Adwaniyah, the 6th Squadron, 8th U.S. Cavalry Regiment from the Fourth Brigade Combat Team witnessed local elections. At the most grass roots level, Iraqis elected their representatives, and following the elections this same town began hosting women's councils to give the Iraqi women a voice.

These company commanders are also helping to develop the local economy. We use microgrants and microloans to help shops to reopen and businesses to get back on their feet.

With increased security, we are focusing on increasing stability – water, electricity, health clinics, and schools. We find that by helping to make a community secure, the Iraqis are restoring

essential services and rebuilding their economy.

We continue to push the communication line of effort. We ensure that all Iraqi events are covered by the Iraqi press – Iraqis telling other Iraqis their own story. At the same time, we are all reaching out to our hometowns and the local media in an effort to break through the national media filter and ensure the good news is being told. We never want the physical distance to keep you from knowing the great work our Soldiers are achieving.

Our Soldiers continue to take the fight to the enemy every day, but they also aggressively tackle the non-lethal fight. Our warriors are simultaneously attacking transition, governance, economics, and communication to bolster the Iraqi people while giving the enemy no where to run, no where to hide.

Rock of the Marne!

Congressional delegation visits Camp Striker Soldiers

Pfc. Monica K. Smith
3rd CAB Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq - Congressional delegates from Nevada, Oklahoma and South Carolina visited with Soldiers Feb. 9 at the Combat Aviation flight line dining facility on Camp Striker.

Sen. Tom Coburn from Oklahoma, Sen. John Ensign from Nevada, and Sen. Jim DeMint from South Carolina met Soldiers for lunch, giving Soldiers a chance to meet their senators and talk about

issues important to them.

Each senator had a table where they ate lunch and spoke with four to six Soldiers from their respective states. The senators discussed subjects such as how the deployment was going, progress being made and reenlistment. First Sgt. Stanton Brown, Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, said he hoped delegates did something with the feedback they got on the ground.

"It's better that they take all the different ideas from all the

places they go and make a decision off of that," Brown said. After lunch, Soldiers were able to have photographs taken with their senator. Before leaving, the senators expressed thanks and welcomed Soldiers to send any requests directly to them. "It's a good feeling to have (Sen. Ensign) come out here," said Spc. Michael Slover, from Nevada, Troop C, 3/7th Cav. Regt.

"There aren't a lot of people from Nevada and it's good to know my state cares."



Pfc. Monica Smith

Lt. Col. Greg Kanicki, executive officer of the 3rd CAB, escorts senators from Nevada, Oklahoma and South Carolina to the dining facility Feb. 9 at the CAB flight line, Baghdad.



Capt. David Lively

Senators John Ensign of Nevada, Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Jim DeMint of South Carolina walk alongside Lt. Col. Mark Solomon, 6/8 Cav., 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. commander in Hawr Rajab, Iraq, Feb. 9.

Senators visit former insurgent stronghold

Special to the Frontline

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq - Soldiers of 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment hosted three Senators during their visit to Patrol Base Stone and neighboring Hawr Rajab, south of Baghdad, Feb. 9.

The Senators walked the streets of Hawr Rajab with Lt. Col. Mark Solomon, 6/8th Cav. Regt., 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division commander, currently attached to the 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Senators John Ensign of Nevada, Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Jim DeMint of

South Carolina, visited the area to see firsthand progress being made in 2nd BCT's area of operations.

The Senators met with local leaders and received a tour of downtown Hawr Rajab while accompanied by Soldiers and Airmen from the Senators' respective states.

Coalition Force escorts removed their helmets, as did the senators, demonstrating the level of security in the area.

The visiting dignitaries were briefed on economic and infrastructure development projects being developed by the 2nd BCT embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, Baghdad 7.

Moments in Marne History: 92nd Engineers go to Haiti

Sasha McBrayer
Fort Stewart Museum

During late January and early February 1995, the 92nd Engineer Battalion received the call to join a United Nations Conglomerate to build base camps in Haiti. Initially, there was skepticism going around the battalion, but as Spc. Eldridge King reported in a special to the Patriotnewspaper, when reality finally hit...[it] turned to nervous anticipation.

"We knew this would be a hard mission physically as well as mentally, he wrote, that we would be leaving our families for six months. When February 26 came, you could read the gloom across the Battalion. But just

beneath the gloomy exterior was pride in knowing in their hearts that we were about to embark upon history - pride in knowing that we were helping some less fortunate people.

I remember the day we landed as vividly as an Ellis Wilson painting.

We landed in Port au Prince, then went on to Lightning Support Base. After about five days we were off to our first base camp, a 500-man camp, located in the Haitian city of Gonaives. It was our biggest mission and we were doing it first.

I was glad to hear that, because I always like to do the hardest mission first. The Base Camp went up in about a month and a half due to the slow distribution of material.

But, despite the elements we had to deal with, it went up fairly smoothly.

After Gonaives, we were back at Port au Prince to recover for our next mission, which was the building of base camps at Jaemel and Les Cayes.

A small contingency force was left behind to handle any domestic missions that came up, such as patching holes in walls of the local prison, building a basketball/ hockey court for the Canadian and American Soldiers and pulling guard duty.

The engineers had their hand in nearly every aspect of this UN mission in Haiti. The Soldiers of the battalion did an outstanding job. While serving in Haiti the Nine Duece led the way.



Left: Haiti, co-located on an island with the Dominican Republic is about 730 miles south of Florida.



Photos courtesy of Fort Stewart Museum

Spc. Adam Silva, 92nd Engineers, 3rd Inf. Div. walks the beaches of Haiti on the units mission to build base camps.



Photos and Graphics by Lina Satele

Below: Sgt. Samson Blakelee, 293rd MP Co., greets his son Alex for the first time after his 15-month tour.

Top Right: Sgt. Kevin and wife Lyndsey Kazprzyk greeted each other with hugs and kisses after the ceremony Feb. 18.

Bottom Right: Soldiers of the 203rd MP Co. stand tall and proud during their welcome home ceremony at Newman Fitness Center.



293rd Military Police home at last

Lina Satele
Frontline Staff

More than 140 Soldiers with the 293rd Military Police Company returned from a 15-month deployment to Diyala Province, Iraq.

More than 400 Family Members and friends were on hand to welcome their Soldiers home with cheers and applause during a brief ceremony at Newman Fitness Center.

"We welcome you all home and bid you a safe pass time," said Lt. Col. Jacqueline Lett, rear detachment commander of the 3rd Infantry Division's Sustainment Brigade as she greeted the returning Soldiers with best wishes from

the division.

In the bleachers amidst the many Family members, friends, signs and balloons, before the unit's arrival, a wife sat impatiently, waiting for her Soldier. Having been married for about a year now to Spc. Adam Machesky, 293rd MP Co, Amanda Machesky is excited about reuniting with her husband after a long time of not seeing one another.

"It's been literally a year since I've seen him when he was home for R&R," Amanda said." I feel like its Christmas morning and I can't wait to open my presents: it's Christmas in February."

While deployed, the unit conducted more than 200 missions, including capturing tons of munitions and securing hundreds of weapons. The MPs also trained the Iraqi

police in the province and helped with freeing the city of Baquba from insurgents.

"It's been emotional, it's been rough but at the same time it's been good because separation makes the heart grow fonder," Amanda Machesky said. "I'm very proud of him; not many men or women will stand up and he did. This is all he's ever wanted to do since I've met him."

This is the second Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment for the company and they are anticipated to deploy back to Iraq sometime in 2009.

"This is what it's about, Family and friends," said Spc. Vialeng Azor. "Whatever the agenda was overseas; once you're back, you know why you were there and why you came back."

Black history spotlight: Sudan Salaam, healing through strength

Kaytrina Curtis
Hunter Public Affairs

The pursuit of the American dream for some is the escape of being labeled by class, race and ethnicity. Often times, the grasp of this dream is just out of reach. Jobless. Homeless. Penniless. For some, these words represent failure. For others, a challenge. For Sudan Salaam, one of the personal trainers for Hunter Army Airfield's Tominac Fitness Center, it represents hope.

Salaam is originally from Lima, Ohio; a small town of about 40,000 residents, which proved to be too small for her big dreams. Salaam said she always felt she was born to win and do great things with her life.

Consequently, without the ability to foresee the future, there was no way for her to know that the fulfillment of those dreams would be delayed and that one day she would be destitute with a small child who needed her care. Her path to success would take many twists and turns.

The middle youth of 10 children, and the first to graduate from college among her siblings, Salaam set her sights high as a young adult starting out in life.

"I went to school for seven years straight," she said. Those seven years paid off and earned Salaam two degrees and a diploma. But for Salaam an education alone had not given her life purpose.

Salaam left Ohio and moved to Washington, D.C. for a brief period before moving back home to Ohio, where she began to search for her purpose at the age of 34. Salaam soon took an interest in weightlifting.

"I read a lot, but I never went into any gym to lift any dumbbell or bench bar," she said.

Her first experience proved to be trying when she fell off the chin-up bar. Kenneth Hughes, a personal trainer, witnessed the mishap and took Salaam under his wing.

"I trained with Kenneth Hughes and four others every day for four years," Salaam

said.

Salaam experienced her first bout at power lifting and amazed herself with her physical prowess. "I broke a couple of records in Ohio dead lifting," she said. "My greatest dead lift was 365 (pounds) from the floor."

After spending a few years breaking records, Salaam's brother, who was in the Army, invited her to move to Georgia for better career opportunities and a change of pace.

At the age of 39, while working for a local hospital as a administrative assistant, Salaam met her future husband, a former Olympic athlete, originally from the west coast of Africa. From that union they produced a son. "I had my baby at 43," said Salaam.

Due to differences in cultures and back-grounds, the marriage did not last, forcing her out on her own. "We did get a divorce," Salaam said. "I separated from him in 2003."

The separation, and later the divorce in 2005, was the beginning of a another era of learning and growth.

"It was tough because I had a baby at 43 and I was working," Salaam said. The baby showed symptoms of respiratory syncytial virus or RSV.

Her son's illness caused Salaam to often call in sick to care for her son. As a result, she was asked to resign from her position in 2004.

According to Salaam, supporting a small child and herself on child support and alimony was not secure income. In January 2007, they lost their home after missing one rent payment.

"I had never lost a home in 46 years," she said. "I always had a home."

The next year proved to be a trying time for Salaam and her son. Not only did they lose their home, she also lost her truck and her job.

She and her son moved around a lot during that year, which made the decision to move home to Ohio easier. Salaam said she

never saw the next blow coming.

One day on her way to pick her son up from childcare, she was handed a summons from a detective stating that because she did not have stable shelter, she would no longer have custody of her three-year old son. Salaam's ex-husband had filed a grievance against the move.

Salaam said she never let opposition stand in her way, and she never took the wrongs acted out against her personal.

With the help of friends and strangers, Salaam regained shared custody of her son, was given a car, and as of last month, moved into a townhome.

"After losing my job at the hospital, I gained the job at Tominac Fitness Center. The truck I lost was replaced with a car. We were able to obtain a home...we have a two bedroom home now," she said. Salaam is grateful for the opportunities afforded her and for the growth experiences of her life.

"I thank God for the military," she said. Salaam is also grateful for the support given to her by Jake Battle, fitness director, Fort Stewart's Newman Fitness Center and Eli Wilson, Tominac fitness center program director.

"Working here has helped me to heal my soul and to regain my spirit," Salaam said.



Kaytrina Curtis

Sudan Salaam, fitness trainer at Tominac Fitness Center, helps a Family member get into shape December 2008.

1 BCT Family member reunion briefings

Unit Liaison and Family Readiness Support Assistants are preparing briefings for the redeployment of the 1st Brigade Combat Team. Briefings will be



held at Club Stewart from 6 to 8 p.m. on scheduled days. Please contact your unit LNO or FRSA as soon as possible to sign your children up for the "Battle Mind for Children" classes. The classes are the same time as the adult classes. The child care is free.

Feb. 20, 3/69 Armor, 767-5321 or 767-5282; Feb. 21, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, 767-1371 or 767-7048; Feb. 25, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry, 767-7135 or 767-6940; Feb. 29, 3rd Brigade Support Battalion, 767-9401 or 767-9901; March 3, 5th Squadron, 7 Cavalry, 767-9903 or 767-8340; March 4, 1/3 Brigade Troop Battalion, 767-2902 or 767-7380.

3rd Infantry Division
Fort Stewart and
Hunter Army Airfield

Black History Month
Theme: "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism"

Feb. 27
Club Stewart Ballroom
1:30 to 3 p.m.

Honorable Otis Johnson
Mayor of Savannah, Georgia
Keynote Speaker

Marne Voices Speak Out

Who do you think is the greatest African-American role-model, past or present, and why?

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He gave his life to improve the quality of life for all Americans."

Shabazz Alderman
AAFES Employee



"Colin Powell. He's a man of integrity. He's honest. As Secretary of the Army, he had a vision for the future."

Neil Tellier
Family member



"Oprah Winfrey. She's an inspiration to all minority women and business owners."

Melissa Redfern
Family Member



"Barak Obama. His running for president shows how America has changed for all Americans."

Lamonte Letman
AAFES Concessionaire



"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I like his non-violent approach to achieving civil rights."

Pvt. Gavin Kaiser
1/64th Armor



"Oprah Winfrey. She let everyone know that nothing and no one should stand in your way to be your best."

Sgt. Andrea Lake
HHC, 3rd SB, STB

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Write a letter to the editor!

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or fax it to 912-767-9366.
visit www.stewart.army.mil

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Soldiers bring school supplies to Hanaswa

Special to the Frontline
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Soldiers distributed school supplies Jan. 31 to the Nebras School in the small rural village of Hanaswa.

The Soldiers of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, delivered the school supplies as part of ongoing reconstruction efforts in Hanaswa, an area that witnessed a great amount of conflict under al-Qaeda domination.

“It’s good for them to see some nice things that most of us take for granted,” said 1st Lt. Anthony Dovie, 1st Platoon, Co. B, 3/7th Inf. Regt. “Hopefully it’ll make the kids’ lives easier.”

Among supplies handed out to the children were pencils, pens, markers, crayons, paint-brushes, notebook paper, coloring books, construction paper, stickers and assorted candy.

“We are very grateful for the help,” said Abd Kadhim Yas, a local sheik in Hanaswa. “The teachers will always teach, even in a torn-down school, but it makes their jobs easier to have paper and pens.”



Courtesy photo

A little girl receives school supplies at the Nebras School in Hanaswa, Iraq. Soldiers of Co B, 3/7th Inf., 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. distributed the school supplies as part of a humanitarian mission, Jan. 31.

2nd BCT discovers largest cache since Marne Thunderbolt

Special to the Frontline
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division found 3,000 pounds of munitions Feb. 6, collectively the largest find since the start of Operation Marne Thunderbolt on Jan. 1.

Both 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment and 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment are conducting ongoing operations in southern Arab Jabour in support of Marne Thunderbolt.

Company C, 1/30th Inf. Regt. discovered 12 55-gallon barrels of homemade explosives. Company B, 1/30th Inf. Regt.

found a pressure-plate improvised explosive device consisting of three 122 mm rounds and one mine of unknown origin. Another find yielded a cache of two mines, one 57 mm projectile, one jar of HME, one artillery shell filled with HME and one 155 mm artillery round.

“We try to find out how long the munitions have been there,” said Maj. James Wilburn, from Las Cruces, N.M., chief of daytime operations, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. “It may indicate whether there was a cell operating there recently, or if the weapons were abandoned long ago. It gives a sense of what our troops may be up against.”

Soldiers from Company A, 5/7th Cav. Regt. discovered an

anti-aircraft gun, completely operational, with an extra barrel.

Company B, 5/7th Cav. Regt. Soldiers found 45 cans of DSHKA rounds, one DSHKA barrel, 20 rockets, two 120 mm rounds, 90 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, 20 RPG fuses, 130 charges and four hand grenades. In a smaller find the same day, they located a cache of three 120 mm rockets.

The items found reveal a history of al-Qaeda in Iraq’s presence in the area.

“The stuff they are finding is largely inoperable,” Wilburn said. “Even though they are degraded or worn out, it is an indication that an anti-aircraft cell may have been operating in the area at one time.”

Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Lifeguards wanted

Now Hiring! Summer Lifeguard Positions available at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. First cut-off for applications is March 8th. Call 912-767-3034 or 912-315-507 for more information.

ACS Big Chili Cook Off

22 Feb. – 4-6 p.m., Rocky's

Come out and taste the delicious recipes and vote for your favorite at the Big Chili Cook-Off. Prizes will be awarded for the best recipe. The winner of the Where's Rocky Scavenger Hunt will also be announced. 912-767-5058.

Military Saves Week Kick-Off Event

25 Feb. – 6-8 p.m., Hunter Club; 26 Feb. – 6-8 p.m., Club Stewart

ACS's Military Saves can help you pay off debts and save to reach your financial goals. Come meet local on-post financial institutions and learn about special financing. 767-5058/315-6816.

Home Buyers Seminar

26 Feb. – 5:30-6:30 p.m., New Cannam Community Center at HAAF

Come learn how to get the most home for your money, prepare your credit for purchasing, and tips for finding the right home. Free. 315-6816.

ACS Big Chili Cook Off

22 Feb. – 4-6 p.m., Rocky's

Come out and taste the delicious recipes and vote for your favorite at the Big Chili Cook-Off. Prizes will be awarded for the best recipe. The winner of the Where's Rocky Scavenger Hunt will also be announced. 767-5058.

Women in the Outdoors

29 Feb. – 1 Mar.

The National Wild Turkey Federation and Outdoor Recreation are sponsoring the Women in the Outdoors (WITO) program. WITO provides interactive educational outdoor opportunities for women ages 13 and older. The program will offer a variety of workshops, including but not limited to, fishing, outdoor photography, and an introduction to handguns. The cost is \$55 for four workshops. Registration ends on 27 Feb. 912-435-8205.

2008 Travel Show

5 Mar. – 1-6 p.m., Hunter Club; 6 Mar. – 1-6 p.m., Club Stewart

The travel show will showcase a variety of vendors who offer vacations and travel arrangements at reduced rates for Soldiers and Families. Door prizes will be given away to attendees. Now is the time to book your next vacation, don't miss the 2008 Travel Show. 767-2841 /315-3674.

Atlanta Hawks Vs. Miami Heat basketball tickets on sale

8 Mar. – 7 p.m., Atlanta, Ga.

Leisure Activities has Atlanta Hawks tickets available for the Mar. 8 game versus the Miami Heat at the Phillips Arena in Atlanta. Tickets are \$50 for the 200 level seating and \$20 for 300 level seating. Cut-off date for picking up tickets is 22 Feb. 767-2841/315-3674.

GEICO-Ohio Wesleyan University Collegiate Golf Tournament

13-15 Mar. – Hunter Golf Club

Come play in the College-Arm portion of the tournament. The College-Arm is a four person scramble with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun. \$65 entry fee covers green fees, driving balls, tournament fee, lunch, post tournament social, prizes, golf car fee, and the opportunity to play with a player slated for PGA tour status. Register by 12 Mar 912-315-9115.

ACS outreach team conducts Valentines welcome event

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Assistant

More than 50 Soldiers and Family members crowded into an Audie L. Murphy Soldier Center classroom for a special Valentines Welcome by the Army Community Service outreach program as part of its Family orientation, Feb. 14. Free gifts, a continental breakfast and a variety of raffled prizes greeted participants at the orientation. More importantly, the ACS Outreach Family orientation provided invaluable information to Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield's new arrivals.

Gifts included a large "Rocky" shopping bag loaded with candy and useful information and a small, ACU-clad Soldier ornament. Family members were invited to write the name of their Soldier on the ornament's nametag as a way of remembering him or her during long deployments. Raffled prizes included several free brunches and lunches-for-two, free bowling, free hours at the auto craft shop and even a trip for two to New York City.

The ACS Outreach team offers Soldiers and Families a one-stop location at Fort Stewart's Audie L. Murphy Soldier Service Center, building 253. The ACS Outreach team makes referrals and appointments and provides the information and assistance needed to support Soldier readiness and Family stability. A statement heard on an Army Family Covenant

video presented during the Family orientation also describes the commitment of the ACS Outreach Program: **We will do everything we can to keep Army Families Army Strong.**

According to program coordinator, Linda Moseley, Fort Stewart's ACS Outreach Program began in response to Stewart-Hunter garrison commander Col. Todd Buchs' initiative to improve quality of life for Soldiers and their Families. She said proudly that her team of paid and volunteer workers is doing what it was created to do. Herself a former Soldier now a Family member whose husband is deployed, Moseley understands what Families go through when a loved-one is deployed for 12 to 15 months at a time. Her personal bond with other Army Family members is reflected in her enthusiasm to serve them.

"We are committed to helping new Soldiers, Family members and (Army) civilians transition to our Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield community," Moseley said. "Our Families are taken care of here."

All the information provided during the orientation was specifically designed for Army Families, information that included a brief description and contact information about other Family support groups or programs such as the Family Readiness Group, Army Family Team Building, Family Advocacy Program, Army Emergency Relief, Exceptional Family Member Program and the post "lending clos-

et" containing household items (pots, pans, dishes, silverware, etc.) that are made available for Families in transition.

The event introduced various representatives from specific Family support groups, who were better equipped to answer questions regarding their particular area of expertise. These representatives included the education center, TRICARE, Judge Advocate General, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, child

care, Red Cross, the post chaplain's office and administrative personnel.

The Valentines Welcome was just one of many special Family orientations conducted by the ACS Outreach team. Previous special programs were conducted at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and there are plans for special welcomes for St. Patrick's Day and Easter. For more information about the ACS Outreach Program, call Linda Moseley at 767-9176.



Randy Murray

Phil Wolke, ACS Outreach Program volunteer, answers a Soldier's question during a special Valentines Welcome, Family orientation, Feb. 14.

CIA grad serves up fun to Soldiers, Families at Club Stewart



Courtesy photo

Decorations from the recent MWR Chinese New Year event at Club Stewart illustrate the facilities creative flair.

Pat Young
Managing Editor

The brunches at Club Stewart can be quiet festive and colorful depending on the occasion, whether celebrating Caribbean heritage, Mardi Gras, the Chinese New Year, or Valentine's Day, they're sure to offer something interesting and tasty.

One of the reasons the club knows so much about the various cultures and their featured cuisine is Club Stewart manager, Julie Cortina who used to be with the CIA - the Culinary Institute of America.

Originally from Chicago, Ill., Julie Cortina, earned a degree in psychology from Loyola; however, opted to attend the CIA when the opportunity presented itself, working at Westin Inc, which

offered scholarships to the culinary school.

Knowing little about the military, Cortina found it interesting that one of the primary foundations of the school was to help teach veterans a trade skill following World War II. She didn't realize that she would later become intimately familiar with the military, as manager of Club Stewart.

Combining her teaching, Cortina tries to help community members experience the cultures from around the world, while enjoying the familiar community atmosphere at Fort Stewart. She schedules regular themed brunches and tries to help bring seasonal celebrations to life.

"We did a Chinese New Year and community members loved it," Cortina said and praised the work of the staff as well as

the community members who got into the spirit of the event. "We had a stir fry station along with decorations and hats. It was a lot of fun."

Cortina said it was a similar experience with the "Taste of the Caribbean" where authentic beef patties were imported special for the event; yet again bringing in New Orleans King Cake for Mardi Gras, and Irish soda bread for Saint Patrick's Day.

Every month has something different at Club Stewart, and whether its Oktoberfest or Halloween the club is going to try and bring something for everyone. Besides the food, the Club tries to incorporate activities like cooking classes for children, or a Valentine dance for Families. Community members are encouraged to check, call 767-3000.

Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

76th training continues, traffic warning given

The 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Indiana Army National Guard unit.continues training on Fort Stewart, and the speed limit on two Georgia highways reduced to 45 mph through March 15 due to their mobilization. Travel in and out of the National Guard Training Center will be reduced for safety reasons. Ricker Road will be closed from 10th Street to 16th Street. Also, increased police presence will be in place around the National Guard Training Center to increase travel safety.

The speed limit reduction affects Highway 144 from Glennville to Richmond Hill and Highway 119 from Fort Stewart to Pembroke. The speed limit reduction is within the Fort Stewart training area only. The road closure and the reduction in speed create the safest conditions possible for 76th Brigade Combat Team Soldiers and for drivers. The 76th BCT will mobilize on the installation in January to prepare for future deployment.

Drivers should be alert for military vehicles crossing the highways at tank trails throughout the training areas. Drivers should also watch for flashing amber lights on the road where vehicles may be crossing or stopped in the road waiting to cross and for mud and other debris on the highway. Extra caution should be taken during darkness when fog is present or other limited visibility situations.

Tax Center hours announced

A dedicated and trained staff is ready to prepare and file your tax return at no charge. Your tax return is filed electronically and if a refund is due, you will receive it usually within seven to 10 business days. Eligible individuals include active duty Soldiers, their dependents, and retirees. The center is open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., now through April 15. The Marne Tax Center at Hunter is in building 1211 at the Legal Center. Stewart's is at building 621, next to 2nd Brigade Headquarters, across from Cottrell field. For more information, call 315-3675 or 767-7490.

Stewart

Get your car washed

The 260th Quartermasters will host a car wash 10 to 2 p.m., Saturday behind the PX. For more information, call 1st Lt. Melanie Stevens at 315-7977.

Official Mail and Distribution hours provided

The Fort Stewart Official Mail and Distribution Center is located in building 418-b, has customer service counter hours of 8:30 to 11:30 and 1 to 3 p.m. If you have a mailbox or need to drop off your official mail and distribution, do so anytime between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the right side door, Monday through Friday. Outgoing mail dropped off after 3 p.m. will not be processed until the following work day. At Hunter, the Official Mail and Distributions sub-center is in building 1212. The operating hours are 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Scholarship applications available

The Fort Stewart Military Family Membership Scholarship Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization under the auspices of The Officers' Spouses' Club that awards merit-based scholarships for deserving eligible Family members of all active, retired or deceased military of the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities.

Applications for these scholarships are available at local high schools, ACS and the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. This isn't just for high school seniors. Family members looking to continue their education are encouraged to apply.



Looking for employment?

Opportunities for permanent employment are available in non-appropriated funds - Morale, Welfare, and Recreation jobs at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

Management jobs available

The following are positions with frequent vacancies. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

Child and Youth Program Assistant (entry skill, and target levels), \$10.39 to \$13.08 per hour

Recreation aid, \$5.85 to \$7 per hour

Operations assistant, \$5.85 to \$8 per hour

Cook, \$8.70 per hour

Hotel desk clerk, \$7 to \$7.50 per hour

Cashier, \$8 per hour

Custodial worker, \$7.72 per hour

Waiter/waitress (trainee), \$7.17 to \$8.17 per hour

Food service worker, to \$7.17 per hour

Bartender, \$8.70 per hour

In addition to the above continuous vacancies, NAF offers mid-level and management level career opportunities in Child and Youth Services, recreation, lodging/hospitality management, business operations, financial man-

Take Family orientation, post tour

Come take a tour of the installation and learn about a variety of helpful programs for new Families. The tour meets on the second floor of the Audie Murphy Soldier Service Center, building 253, room 2074 at 9 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

Orientation is held from 9 a.m. to noon and breaks for an hour lunch. The tour of the installation is given from 1 to 2 p.m. Free child care is available upon request. For more information, call ACS at 767-9176.

ID card facilities close

The Fort Stewart ID card facility located in the Audie Murphy Soldier Service Center, building 253, will be closed for RAPIDS upgrade, Feb. 28 - 29.

All emergency requests for dependent ID cards and Common Access Cards are encouraged to report to the Hunter Army Airfield ID card section, building 1209.

Groundbreaking Ceremony slated

Fort Stewart Residential Communities Initiative and GMH Military Housing Unaccompanied Personnel Housing will host a ground breaking ceremony 2 p.m., March 5 at the corner of Hero and New Guinea Roads. The event will mark the official start of construction for the Fort Stewart UPH project.

The project will consist of 37 two-story walk-up, garden style town homes situated on a 50-acre wooded parcel of land. There will be a total of 334 bedrooms in this project consisting of 298 one bedroom apartments and 36 two bedroom apartments. The structure will house E-6 to officer bachelors.

Hunter

PWOC classes, meetings slated

Classes are available for children, ages three and older, including adult Bible study and RCIA classes, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the Religious Education building. Call Pam Perez at 315-5440 for additional information. Protestant Women of the Chapel meets every Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Call Valarie Moore at 920- 8519 for information.

Hunter Community Center moves

The Hunter Army Airfield Community Center, building 1286, will be closed today and is moving to building 1279.

The relocation is happening because building 1286 will be renovated. Army Community Services, the leisure travel office, the pass and permit office, Family child care, and the school liaison office will move to the new location.

The offices will reopen Friday. Current phone numbers for the offices will be transferred to the new location. For Army Emergency Relief, call 315-6816 or 767-5058. The Hunter Child and Youth Services registration office will also move to building 1279 today.

Army Emergency Relief Fund announced

Military and civilian personnel are invited to the Army Emergency Relief Fund kick-off, scheduled 9 a.m., March 6 at ACS building 1279 (the old Ranger headquarters building). The campaign will officially run from March 1 to May 15. If you want to contribute or need additional information about the campaign, contact Brenda Hill at 315-2691.

New Rio Gate hours scheduled

Rio Gate is now open 24 hours daily, seven days a week, for decaled vehicles only. Daily passes and vehicle registration services are offered at Wilson and Montgomery St. Gates. For

additional information, call the Hunter police station at 315-6133.

Learn recipes for successful deployment

The 4th BCT Family Readiness Group and Army Community Services will co-host the Vanguard Recipes for a Successful Deployment seminar March 8 at the Main Post Chapel.

The seminars, which start at 10 a.m., are on organization, quick healthy meals, MCEC, ACS, and a presentation and book signing by Shellie Vandevoorde.

There will be lots of good information to help our spouses succeed and become more independent during this deployment.

The seminars are open to anyone who would like to attend, but space is limited and they must reserve their spot. Child care is available. For more information or reservations, call 767-1749.

Be a Soldier for a day

4th BCT FRG hosts a Vanguard Combat Spouse Badge competition April 19 at Vanguard Field. Vanguard spouses past and present are invited to come out and be a Soldier for a day! Events will include Army Physical Fitness Training, litter carry, MOUT, Tug-of-War, Common Task Testing, and EST.

Following the competition there will be a cook-out and an awards ceremony for all participants and their Families (children, cheerleaders, etc.). This competition is open only to Vanguard spouses. For more information, call 767-1749.

Black History celebration held

Don't miss guest speaker Elizabeth Eckford at Tuttle Health Clinic's Celebration of Black History at 10 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 28. Eckford will share her experience as one of "The Little Rock Nine" when she integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957 with eight other students. She will also tell accounts of reconciliation between herself and others in the era of segregation.

Honor Flight presentation held

The Honor Flight Program, designed to take WWII veterans to Washington, D.C. to view the national WWII Memorial, will be presented by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Buddy Johnson, U.S. Air Force and former president, South Georgia Chapter of Military Officers Association of America, at the Hunter Club at 11:30 p.m., Friday. The program continues through lunch at 12:15 p.m. and is open to everyone. Lunch is \$10 and reservations are required by calling 912-925-1773.

Hunter Tax Center offers Saturday hours

The Tax Center, located in building 1211, will conduct two more Saturday operating hours - Saturday and March 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

HSC Luncheon, spring fundraiser slated

Don't miss lunch with members of the Hunter Spouses' Club at 11 a.m., March 11 at Hunter Club for \$10. Fabulous theme baskets will be auctioned to the highest bidders. Club members will also be collecting pencils and juice boxes for Pulaski Elementary School students who are having CRCT testing. Guests of the month include attendees from 603 Aviation Battalion and 260th Quartermaster Battalion, who will get \$1 off lunch and a complimentary prize drawing ticket.

If you wish to attend, contact Stephanie Pettit, 459-0411, by March 6 or make your on-line reservation at hunterspousesclub.org.

Opportunity exist now at the local Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Fort Stewart.

Check out our student career and/or student temporary employment!

The U.S. Army offers a variety of exciting opportunities to gain important career-related work experience prior to graduation.

If you are interested in the challenging and rewarding field of government service, you have the opportunity to develop specialized skills that will prepare you for advancement in your chosen career field.

Candidates must be seeking degree in: Human Resources or Information Technology; YP-201-1 (Comparable GS04 target GS09).

Learn more online at cpol.army.mil or usajobs.opm.gov. Send Resume and college transcript to:

Jackie JohnsonBrunson
Human Resources Specialist
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center
Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield
767-8671
FAX: 767-2302
jacqueline.johnsonbrunson@us.army.mil

Did you know?

- You don't have to be a U.S. Citizen to be employed by NAF.
- Hiring preference for eligible military spouses can be used multiple times for "flexible" status positions.
- You do not lose eligibility until you are

placed in a regular full or part-time position (NAF or Appropriated Funds).

- There is a hiring preference in NAF for involuntarily separated military members and their eligible Family members.
- Current NAF employees who have worked one continuous year in a position without time limits are eligible to be considered for Civil Service (GS/WG) jobs the same as APF employees who transfer to Army.
- Youth at least 16 years of age can be employed year round in certain NAF positions where conditions and duties meet all criteria of Federal and state child labor laws.
- NAF offers a Management Trainee Program that is targeted to annually hire up to 20 recent college graduates who have bachelor's degrees in certain MWR specialties.

Applications are accepted on a continuing basis and will be used to fill Management Trainee Program vacancies as necessary. Go to www.armymwr.biz and click on Programs for more information.

Eligible employees who move between Department of Defense NAF and APF positions can "port" certain benefits such as retirement, leave, etc.

Need resume help?

Contact ACS employment readiness at 767-1297.

For further information on employment opportunities contact the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, job information center at 767-5051.

1st Armored Division recognizes 3rd Inf Div logistics heroes

Master Sgt. Rodney Williams
3rd Sustainment Bde Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Forward Operating Base Q-West welcomed Brig. Gen. James C. Boozer, Deputy Commanding General 1st Armored Division, Feb. 12.

Boozer arrived that afternoon to recognize five logistician heroes assigned to subordinate units of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade for their efforts in supporting Soldiers of Multi-National Division-North in Iraq.

“These five individuals represent you and what you do everyday,” said Boozer to the crowd gathered in front of the 3rd Sustainment Bde. headquarters. “If you look at what we’re going to give these log heroes awards for and recognize them for, it’s what you are all about.”

Boozer commented on some of the accomplishments of the log heroes and particularly what they were being awarded for.

“It’s all about taking care of Soldiers. Pfc. (Jacob) Sanchez, medic, digitized over 4,000 or so medical records,” Boozer added. “But that directly impacts taking care of Soldiers.

We’ve also got non-commissioned officers here who are knee-deep doing exactly what they should do day in and day out and that’s moving equipment and people. It’s making sure that everybody is properly armed with ammunition; it’s making sure that we are well trained before we get on the road in terms of IED training. It’s all very, very important.”

Boozer also offered word of encouragement to those who were gathered to witness this special occasion.

“I get a chance to fly around the battlefield and I pass combat logistics patrols,

fuelers, tankers and I get to see your work out there on the battlefield in support of our Soldiers. You’re doing everything, and more, than we could ever ask or expect of a bunch of great warrior logisticians.”

The five logistician heroes awarded were Capt John Ackiss and Capt. Julie Stock, both of the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Mark Reif and Sgt. Manuel Cabading of the 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion; and Pfc. Jacob Sanchez, Special Troops Battalion. All of battalions mentioned fall under the 3rd Sustainment Brigade.



War Stories to feature 3rd Inf Div

Spc Ben Hutto

The 3rd Infantry Division will be featured on Fox News War Stories Special to be broadcast 9 p.m., March 22. The occasion marks the 5th anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During a visit in December 2007, Retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, host of the documentary series, walks with Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of Multi-National Division - Center, and Col. Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr., from Prince George’s County, Md., commander of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div., out the front gate of Patrol Base Assassin, Iraq, Dec. 8. North, Lynch, Grigsby and local Iraqi leaders walked to a shopping area known as Four Corners to view the progress that has been made in the area. “After seeing what the 3rd ID is doing here, I am inspired by the commitment and perseverance of the Soldiers,” North said.

See AER From Page 1A

AER goes a long way in helping the Soldiers and Families who can use the money for a variety of needs including to pay for food, rent and utilities, emergency transportation and vehicle repair, and to cover personal needs if pay is delayed or stolen.

AER is a private nonprofit organization chartered in 1942 to help Soldiers take care of their own. Funds are provided in the form of interest-free loans, grants, or in a combination of the two.

Frederick Sledge, Stewart-Hunter Army Community Service AER coordina-

tor said AER assistance is based on financial situation and the assistance process is a combined effort with ACS and the unit.

However, if a person is traveling, they can still seek assistance by finding the nearest AER contact or American Red

Cross representative, (877)272-7337. Sledge said individuals must have a military identification card, a power of attorney if their sponsor is deployed, and provide necessary documents. For further information, call 767-5058 at Stewart, or 315-6816 at Hunter.

385th From Page 1A

Right: 385th MP Soldiers march through the early morning fog at the Stewart-Hunter Welcome Home Ceremony held at Cottrell Field, Feb. 15.

Below: Family, friends and guests erupt into thunderous applause and calls of welcome home at the welcome home ceremony Feb. 15 at Cottrell Field.



“Your combat tour in Afghanistan is complete,” Sallese told them as “hooah” cheers resounded from the crowd behind him.

He commended the Soldiers for the job they did in Afghanistan and their service to our country, then he welcomed them home. Following the National Anthem and everyone singing the 3rd Infantry Division song and the Army song, Sallese dismissed their formation and invited their Families, friends and fellow Soldiers to officially welcome them home.

Samantha McDonald couldn’t articulate the words to say how much she appreciated having her husband, Sgt. Robert McDonald, home again. After several long minutes passionate embracing, the teary-eyed wife could only say she was happy to have her husband back. Her lack of words seemed to express the sentiment of most of the Family members there, who

hugged, kissed and cried on the shoulders of their loved-one.

The Soldiers themselves will each be appropriately recognized and awarded for the 15-month combat tour in Afghanistan, their part in the Global War on Terror. The highest award Army Families have to look forward to is getting their Soldier back. It’s an award many Americans don’t understand, and therefore don’t appreciate, but it’s what makes Army Families uniquely different and why the bond between individual Army Families is so strong.

Friday morning’s welcome home ceremony in a cold, Georgia fog was as much for the Families of the 385th MP Bn. as it was for the Soldiers. Such ceremonies are the Army’s way of saying to all the husbands, wives and children who’ve wept, waited, worried and prayed for 15 long months, “Job well done.”

SLAM From Page 1A

The first phase of Grand Slam involves clearing a peninsula that stretches into the Tigris River, directly south of the city of Salman Pak. In addition to targeting the terrorist network there, Coalition Forces will go after AQI’s infrastructure of safe houses, weapon caches and firing points.

From that point, U.S. Soldiers will increase their presence in the area surrounding Salman Pak, to assist the local population in regaining control of their area.

Troops from the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division are already moving into Combat Outpost Carver, currently under construction southeast of Salman Pak. The outpost is located on a peninsula on the Tigris River, in an area that was a former stronghold of the Iraqi Republican Guard. From here, Soldiers can maintain visibility on river traffic and impede insurgent movement.

The outpost is named after Pvt. Cody

Carver, from Haskell, Okla., one of three soldiers killed in an Oct. 30 attack in Salman Pak and, at 19, the youngest of the 10 battalion Soldiers killed over the past year.

COP Carver hosts the first permanent presence of Coalition Forces in an area that has troubled the battalion for months.

The move south was facilitated by cooperation with Coalition partners from the Republic of Georgia. A battalion of Georgian troops, part of the 1st Georgian Brigade, recently assumed control of an area to the north of COP Carver, allowing U.S. troops to move south.

U.S. commanders are now working with local tribal sheiks to set up a security cooperation arrangement with their tribesmen, the same as has been done elsewhere throughout MND-C with the Sons of Iraq groups. Talks have been underway for almost a month, preceding Marne Grand Slam, to organize SoI leaders and plot locations for security checkpoints.

DPW From Page 1A

The WTU has been a fully operational unit since January 2008 and will soon have its own facilities for both administration and housing.

“Our mission is to make sure the Warriors in Transition have the very best facilities on Fort Stewart,” Biering said. “Our goal is to establish a campus-like setting for our wounded Soldiers.”

Biering said there are currently about 150 barracks rooms available for wounded, single Soldiers, and that Families of wounded, married Soldiers have top priority for on-post housing. He explained too that five percent of Stewart’s privatized housing was designed for special needs/wounded Soldiers and Family members.

According to Biering, current WTU projects include renovating about a dozen buildings in the old National Guard training area across from Winn Army Hospital. The renovation of these facilities is scheduled to be completed after April 1st. Other projects include a Soldier and Family Assistance Center and a battalion headquarters with two company headquarters. These projects are already under construction and slated for completion by 2010.

Biering explained the normal process of pro-

posal, design, approval and construction of new facilities is a 5-year process, but the Army has placed a high priority toward building permanent facilities dedicated for Warriors in Transition. In order to better facilitate these WTU projects, the DPW is divided into five divisions: Operations and Maintenance, Engineering, Master Planning, Environmental and Housing.

“I and my people understand the number one thing is taking care of wounded Soldiers,” Biering said. “These guys and gals have made tremendous sacrifices – each of them and their Families.”

Biering, a 26-year Army veteran who served as a brigade commander in Iraq, has a vested interest in supporting Warriors in Transition. He has a son, a 1st lieutenant, who is currently serving in Afghanistan, and another son, who is a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

“When someone from outside (the installation) visits my office on official business, the first place I take them is Warriors Walk,” Biering said. “It gives them a perspective of what we’re all about.”

DES Spotlight

Director of Emergency Services



Abraham Howell

Capt. Arthur Weston was promoted as the interim Hunter Police Chief at a ceremony Feb. 13 in the Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Conference Room. During the ceremony, he received the rank of Major by Lt. Col. Dan Whitney, Hunter garrison commander and Hunter Deputy Garrison Commander Kewyn Williams. Weston previously served as Assistant Chief of Emergency Services at Fort Stewart. He brings 20 years of law enforcement experience to the position.

Justice Served

Female 23, Received a 3607, 40 hours of community service, 12 months probation, for possession of a controlled substance.

Female 25, \$750 fine, 12 months probation, \$25 Special Assessments for suspended license.

Female 32, \$300 fine, \$10 Special Assessments for criminal trespassing.

Male 22, Confined to 30 days, with a Special Assessment of \$25 for possession of a controlled substance.

Male 20, Confined to 30 days, with a Special Assessment of \$25 for possession of dangerous weapon on a federal facility.

Male 24, confined to 10 days, with Special Assessments \$25 for suspended license.

Male 25, Confined to 30 days, with a Special Assessment of \$25 for possession of a controlled substance.

Male 25, 12 Months probation, confined for 48 hours on a weekend, fined \$500 with a Special Assessment of \$25, 40 hours of community service for suspended license; speeding.

Female 56, \$500 fine, 12 months probation, 40 hours of community service, \$25 Special Assessments for theft of government property.

Turkey season opens at Stewart

Special to the Frontline

Fort Stewart turkey hunters are anxiously gearing up and practicing “turkey talk” for the upcoming turkey season. Turkey season on Fort Stewart coincides with the Georgia state turkey season which runs from March 22 through May 15. During this time, scores of turkey hunters will enter designated training areas of Fort Stewart to hunt the Eastern wild turkey.

In their turkey hunting arsenal, the successful turkey hunter will usually carry one or more turkey calls and/or locator calls to attempt to pinpoint the turkey’s location and to then lure the elusive “gobbler” into effective shooting range. This “turkey talk” is an attempt to mimic the sounds made by hen turkeys during the breeding season when male turkeys, often referred to as “gobblers”, patrol areas in search of receptive hens with which to mate.

There are numerous types and brands of commercial turkey calls hunters use in their attempt to bag a gobbler. Commercial calls can be divided into two distinct groups. One group is the friction call group which consists of various configurations of wooden box calls and slate or glass calls as well as numerous types of push button calls.

The second group consists of calls that utilize some type of reed or latex diaphragm upon which air is blown or passed over to create sound. Within this group are tube calls, can calls, mouth diaphragms and various calls that make use of some type of bellows system to move air across the reed or diaphragm. Numerous homemade call configurations also exist with some of these calls even being made from the hollow wing bones of previously taken turkeys.

All of these calls mimic the sounds made by hen turkeys and are typically used to lure gobblers to a particular area or ambush point while an entirely different type of call is often used to pinpoint the location of a gobbler so that an effective ambush or set up location can be chosen prior to attempts to call the gobbler into shooting range. These calls are referred to as locator calls and are designed to produce a noise that either causes gobblers to “shock gobble” or respond to the call out of aggression. Some of these calls mimic sounds made by owls, hawks or other predators of young turkeys. Others resemble sounds of

woodpeckers and peafowl which for some unknown reason often elicit responses from gobblers, giving away their exact location.

Fort Stewart is home to the Eastern wild turkey which is arguably the warriest and most difficult to hunt of the four subspecies of wild turkey indigenous to North America.

In fact, some hunters will go so far as to say that the Eastern wild turkey is the most difficult of all North American big game to harvest. The remaining three subspecies of wild turkey found in North America are the Osceola or Florida wild turkey which inhabits Florida, the Merriam’s which is found in the western states and the Rio Grande wild turkey which inhabits the south central states.

All hunters, 16-years-old and older, wishing to hunt turkey on Stewart must possess a valid installation hunting permit, a valid Georgia hunting license and a valid Georgia big game hunting license. However, the big game license requirement is met by residents who possess a lifetime, honorary or sportsman license.

The aforementioned exceptions are not applicable to non-residents who must, in all cases, possess both a Georgia hunting license and a Georgia big game license. Active duty military personnel are automatically granted resident status for the purpose of obtaining all Georgia hunting licenses.

Hunters are allowed to take three gobblers, (male turkeys) during the season. There is no per-day limit, meaning a season limit (three gobblers) may be taken in one day. Legal turkey firearms consist of shotguns with number-2 shot or smaller and any muzzleloading firearm.

Turkeys may also be taken with all archery equipment to include crossbows with scopes.

Turkey hunters are not required to wear fluorescent orange on their person as turkeys are able to discern color.

Further, during turkey season there should be no modern centerfire rifles being used to hunt any type of game on Fort Stewart as the extended feral hog season is closed with the beginning of turkey season and does not reopen until after the last day of turkey season. All other applicable state regulations will be enforced.

For additional information please contact the Directorate of Emergency Services Conservation Law Enforcement Office at 435-8013.

New Soldier, Airmen, Civilian center opens at FOB Hammer

Photos by Sgt. Natalie Rostek

Sgt. 1st Class Howard McMorris, Company A, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, looks at a book in the library of the new Soldier, Airmen and Civilian Morale Center after an opening ceremony Feb. 10 at Forward Operating Base Hammer, Iraq.



Third Heavy Brigade Combat Team Command Sgt. Maj. James M. Pearson, from Philadelphia; retired 1st Sgt. John Ellis, Sr., from Savannah, Ga., supervisor for the Moral, Welfare and Recreation Center; Col. Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr., from Prince George's County, Md., commander of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team; Lt. Col. Kelly Lawler, from Monticello, N.Y., commander of the 203rd Brigade Support Battalion; and 1st Lt. John Enfinger, from New Brockton, Ala., the mayor of Forward Operating Base Hammer, Iraq, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the new Soldier, Airmen and Civilian Morale Center Feb. 10 at Forward Operating Base Hammer, Iraq.



3/1 Cavalry Soldiers conduct joint operation with national police

Sgt. Natalie Rostek
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Soldiers of 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment conducted an operation in coordination with Iraqi national police Feb. 7 in the village of al Bata'a, north of Patrol Base Assassin.

Soldiers of Troops A and C, 3/1st Cav.

Regt., accompanied policemen from 3rd Brigade, 1st National Police Division and members of the Sons of Iraq from al Bata'a patrolling the area.

"Combined operations with Iraqi Security Forces in the lead builds confidence in the government and the Iraqi security forces' ability to provide coordinated security for the populace," said 1st Lt. Jeff Ritter, from Waterloo, Iowa, chemi-

cal and projects officer for 3/1st Cav. Regt.

Soldiers and policemen cleared 55 structures of weapons and munitions. The group also entered 35 individuals into the Handheld Interagency Identity Detection Equipment System.

The HIIDES database is used by law enforcement agencies as a quick reference system to help in the identification and apprehension of criminals. The 3rd Heavy

Brigade Combat Team uses the system to quickly identify and catalogue persons of interest during continuing operations in the Mada'in Qada.

"Soldiers responded quickly and decisively to enemy movement," said Capt. Darrell Melton, commander of Troop C.

Their actions have provided a safe environment for the citizens of the Mada'in Qada."

Hawr Rajab citizens find hope

Sgt. Jason Stadel
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Educational and economic opportunities for Hawr Rajab citizens are emerging with the Village of Hope program. Designed to teach Iraqis vocational skills such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing and well-drilling, classes will begin in the upcoming weeks.

The vocational-technical school is being built on the grounds of Patrol Base Stone, in Troop A, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment’s area of operations in Hawr Rajab.

“We want to teach Iraqis skills so they can get sustained employment,” said Lt. Col. Mark Solomon, 6/8th Cav. Regt. commander.

Soldiers of the 6-8th Cav. Regt. and Airmen of the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron are working together on the project; Soldiers are providing logistical support and Airmen are handling the rest.

The Airmen are from the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron, Malstrom Air Force Base, in Great Falls, Mont. The 557th ERHS is a civil engineering unit, composed of Airmen from the active duty Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

The 557th ERHS is headquartered at Balad Air Base but the unit has teams working at different locations throughout Iraq.

“Everyone working on the Village of Hope volunteered to go,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Kapp, the Air Force liaison to the Army for the project. “Everyone is excited and happy to make a difference.”

Airmen will be teaching classes at the school. Their military construction skills will be the base of expertise for the curriculum.

Before teaching begins, the Village of Hope training area needs to be completed. PB Stone will expand considerably as the Airmen build living quarters for themselves and put up tents where classes will be held.

Teaching the Iraqis trade skills will be a new experience for most of the Airmen but they feel up to the challenge.

“I think it’s important these guys learn to build; they need to sustain themselves,” said Master Sgt. Rodney Kilby, a structural craftsman from Hot Springs, Ark.

Kilby said this is the seventh time he’s been deployed to southwest Asia. “I really think we can make a difference by teaching them,” he said.

Master Sgt. John Hudson, logistical craftsman with the 557th ERHS, said the Village of Hope is a positive step and a chance for Iraqis to improve their community. “Usually we’re building to stay,” the Bloomberg, Texas, native said. “This is the first part of my tour where we’re building to



Sgt. Jason Stadel

Master Sgt. Rodney Kilby, structural engineer, uses a drill to complete a gable truss for a hut being built at the Village of Hope in Hawr Rajab, south of Baghdad, Feb. 7. The Village of Hope will be a vocational school for Hawr Rajab residents. U.S. Air Force will provide instructors at the school

leave.”

Teaching will encompass more than classroom lectures. Students will have hands-on experience and help rebuild their community simultaneously.

“With the help of the instructors, the classes will be rebuilding 10 houses that have been destroyed and repairing 30 houses that have been damaged,” Kapp said. A playground will also be built in Hawr Rajab, he said.

Physically rebuilding the community will also help boost the economy as most materials needed for construction

will be bought from local merchants.

The first class will help dictate curriculum for future classes, as instructors will work with interpreters and cultural advisers, learning from each class to improve the next.

Morale is high for the Air Force volunteers as they anticipate the start of the first class. “This is the most positive thing we’ve done,” Hudson said. “That’s why I volunteered.”

Each Village of Hope class will be three months long and include 50 students.

Street lights restore sense of safety on route

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – After 45 days and Coalition funding, one stretch of road was illuminated Jan. 30, eliminating a hiding place for insurgents.

Sons of Iraq in the area helped bring security into the neighborhood, but under cover of darkness insurgents still moved around, said Capt. Joseph Inge, commander of Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. To remove this last vestige of cover, 30 solar lights were placed on the route.

“The lights will help give people confidence; (insurgents) will be less likely to do bad things when lights are on,” said 1st Lt. Brent McCorkle, Company D executive officer. “This is just another turning point.”

Residents of Arab Jabour share that sentiment. With the 30 lights, installed by a contractor for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Hercules Company, people are feeling more confident in their neighborhood, walking the streets during hours they once feared being out.

“Many families are coming back,” said Abas Rashed, an SoI member for the past six months.

These families, once displaced by violence, are returning to their homes in greater waves than before with the new street lights up, Rashed said.

While manning checkpoints in the neighborhood, he said there were hours when people once refused to go outside. Now, people are willing to stay out longer and conduct daily business.

“The illumination improves a lot,” said Hussen Jowd, a local butcher. “It allows me to keep my shop open longer.”

Because the lights are powered by the sun, Jowd said, they do not cut into the area’s normal flow of electricity.

Such a design was purposeful, said McCorkle, a native of Greenville, S.C. Currently, the people of Arab Jabour get about six to eight hours of power a day, and sometimes up to 12 hours, a vast improvement since Coalition Forces first arrived, he said.

He said Coalition Forces did not want to cut back that power by adding more lights, despite the increase in security they would give. Thus the decision was made to install solar power lights that recharge themselves during the day.

“It was the result of someone trying to think ahead,” he said.

Soldiers of the 1/30th Inf. Regt. continue to think ahead about improving the area. Inge, a native of Richmond, Va., said his Soldiers are committed to the people of Arab Jabour and helping improve their quality of life.

Inge said he hopes to add more lights, increase the amount of electricity available and install water purification pumps to give the people fresh drinking water.

Education Matters

Family Member Needs Assessment Survey

The local education centers are gathering Family member feedback in order to plan new post secondary continuing education programs. The questionnaire allows Family members to indicate their obstacles in obtaining education, indicate what certificate and college programs they would like and the best time to offer programs.

See an education counselor to complete the short survey, or it can be submitted online by going to the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Web site and selecting "services" or type in www.stewart.army.mil/ima/sites/services/education/education.asp and see the survey link on the bottom.

Free college course offered

Columbia College Spouse's Opportunity Scholarship provides spouses of military personnel a tuition waiver for an initial classroom course with Columbia College at both the Stewart and Hunter education center sites. The active duty spouse does not have to take classes with Columbia College in order to be considered. This is a value of \$450, which is the cost of Columbia's three-credit hour classroom course. The program is an incentive for eligible students to embark on a degree program, while completing the financial aid process. In addition, Columbia College is offering two other scholarships for their students who have completed at least 15 SH with Columbia and are maintaining a 3.0 grade point average. Call 877-3406 at Stewart or 352-8635 at Hunter for more information.

National Military Spouse Scholarship

The National Military Family Association's Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to spouses of uniformed servicemembers (active duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees, and survivors) to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school. Scholarships range in amount from \$500 to \$1,000. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees and school room and board. Complete an NMFA survey, short answer questions, and an essay on the NMFA's Web site: www.nmfa.org/scholarship. Application deadline is March 15.

CTC scholarships available

The Central Texas College Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2008-2009 academic year. Interested CTC students have until March 31 to apply for any of the more than 120 endowed scholarships totaling over \$2.6 million. Scholarship opportunities are based on financial need as well as academic achievement. The online application for both the CTC Foundation and CTC Scholarship Fund for high school seniors is available at <https://ctcd.scholarships.nelnet.net>. This school is listed by Military Advance Education in the 2007 Top Colleges and Universities.

Apply for Rita Ackerman Scholarship offered

The Rita Ackerman Scholarship in the amount of \$500 each is given to the spouse of an active, retired or deceased enlisted Soldier and residing in the Fort Stewart - Hunter Army Airfield area. The scholarship is a memorial to Rita Ackerman, a former Enlisted Spouses' Club member. Stewart's Enlisted Spouses' Club selection committee will award the scholarship based on academic merit, volunteer activities, recommendations and an essay. Applicants must be accepted, or expect to be accepted by an institution of higher learning or vocational school. It must be completed and mailed by April 1. For more information go online at fortstewartesc.com/Scholarship.aspx, or see an Army education counselor for an application.

Military Family Member Scholarship

The Military Family Member Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization under the auspice of the Officers' Spouses' Club to provide merit-based scholarships. Applicants should be a spouse or unmarried Family member of an active duty, reserve or national guard, retired or deceased member of the U.S. military forces who will be attending accredited institutions pursuing vocational, associate, baccalaureate or masters degrees. Applications must be completed and mailed by March 12. A special selection committee will award the scholarships in May. The decision will be based on academic records, transcripts, volunteer activities and an essay. Download the application at thesteelmagnolia.org/Scholarships.html, or

see an Army education counselor.

Apply for the Georgia HOPE grant

The HOPE Grant is money given by the state of Georgia to students with financial needs to attend vocational/trade schools. The grant covers certificate and diploma programs. Any Soldier or Family member of a Soldier who is stationed in Georgia may be eligible. If you are interested in attending a Georgia vocational or trade school, inquire with your school's financial advisor or visit the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center to speak with a counselor.

Educate while you wait

Get your certificate or diploma and pursue your new career during this deployment. Certificates for Web site technician, child care manager, and medical transcription are a few of the eligible programs offered by Savannah Technical College. Classes are available in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center and at the Liberty Campus on Airport Road in Hinesville. For more information, call Savannah Tech in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center at 408-2430 or the Liberty Campus at 408-3024.

Take CLEP and DANTES exams

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 877-3406 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel. CLEP tests are \$85 and DSSTs are \$90 for non-military examinees.

Take GED, skills enrichment courses

Graduation Equivalence Diploma and adult education classes are offered in partnership with the Liberty County Adult Education Program at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. The courses prepare you to take the GED exam or refresh your skills. The courses are free of charge. You can select from one of a number of dates and times, which are 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday; or 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday in rooms 225 - 228. For more information, call 368-7322. To register for the classes, you must be present for both days of the process. Registration is first come, first serve. Active duty military are registered upon request. Call 368-7322 for complete details.

Green-to-Gold briefing slated

The Green-to-Gold briefings are held at the installation education centers every month. On Stewart the briefings are 2 p.m., the first and third Thursday of each month. The Hunter briefings are 2 p.m., on the second and fourth Thursday.

Learning center provides computer resources

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center's learning center has 55 computers with Internet access available. You can use the center to complete your homework, research for your classes, access the Army's basic skills automated program, "Lifetime Library" or just stop in to check your e-mail. The center is open seven days a week. It is closed on federal holidays. The learning center is room 230, building 100. The hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday - Thursday; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday. The Hunter learning center is open 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday. Take advantage of a variety of study resources and Internet capability. For more information, call 315-6130.

\$4500 tuition available for Soldiers

All active duty members have \$4500 per fiscal year for education. This entitlement is separate from the Montgomery GI Bill benefits available from the Veteran's Administration. Details are available at 1:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, during a one-hour briefing at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, room 223.

Troops-, Spouse-to-Teachers briefings slated

The Georgia Troops-to-Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified servicemembers of up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Under the Spouse-to-Teachers Program, eligible military spouses may be reimbursed for the cost of state required certification tests up to a total of \$600. Future meetings are scheduled for 11 a.m., Feb. 27, March 19, April 23 and May 21 at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. For more information, visit online at www.tttga.net and www.sttga.net or call 1-800-745-0709 or 767-8331.

Next college term dates announced

Enrollment will soon begin for the "spring" college term. Please contact the college directly for course schedules. *Central Texas College* term runs March 17 to May 10. For more information, call 767-2070 or 315-4090 at Hunter. *Columbia College* term runs March 24 to May 17. For more information, call 767-5336 at Stewart, or 352-8635 at Hunter. *Embry Riddle* term runs March 17 to May 18. For more information, call 767-3930 at Stewart or 352-5252 at Hunter. *Savannah Tech* term runs March 28 to June 11. For more information, call 408-2430.

Webster University term runs March 17 to May 15. For more information, call 767-5357 at Stewart or 354-0033 at Hunter.

CES makes training available

The Civilian Education System provides the Army Civilian Corps self-development and institutional training (leader development) opportunities to develop leadership attributes through distance learning and resident training. CES includes the Action Officer Development Course, Supervisory Development Course, Management Development Course, Foundation Course, Basic Course, Intermediate Course, Advanced Course and Senior Service College. If you are unfamiliar with CES, this link will take you to Army Management Staff College site for CES, or learn more online at www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/ces.

Webster offers deployed reduced online tuition

Soldiers enrolled in Webster's graduate classes will receive a reduced rate, while deployed. Contact Marsha Sands at sands@webster.edu, or 354-0033, DSN: 315-5906 for additional information. This school is listed by Military Advance Education in the 2007 Top Colleges and Universities.

Hunter Spouses' Club Scholarship offered

The Hunter Thrift Shop- Hunter Spouses' Club Scholarship Program will award several scholarships in amounts from \$200 to \$1000 to deserving students (dependent child or spouse) to further their education. Enter their Web site, www.hunterspousesclub.org, select scholarships and download the application for complete details. Applications must be postmarked by March 14.

MOAA offers scholarship

The Military Officers Association of America is offering the base/post scholarships. This program provides grants of \$1000 each to 25 dependent children of military personnel. There are four other additional other programs offered by MOAA. There is just one online application for all programs. It must be completed and submitted no later than noon March 3; www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund.

Free college tutoring through March 18

Savannah Technical College at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center is offering free "walk-in" tutoring for college students each Monday and Wednesday. Math support is available in room 186, 12:30 to 3 p.m. and English tutoring is conducted in room 253 from 4 to 6 p.m. You do not have to be enrolled in Savannah Tech. No appointment or pre-registration is necessary. For more information, call 408-2430.

ASE Certification Testing announced

Automotive Service Excellence certification testing will be administered at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield May 8, 13, and 15. The registration fee is \$32; deadline is March 17.

Eligibility requires the person taking the class be a Soldier who is in a maintenance or automotive MOS or is working on an Associate degree in Automotive Technology. If so, they are eligible to take the ASE on those dates. Soldiers must be on active duty at the time of the exams. Identification cards will be checked. No civilian ASE testing is provided at a DANTES test site at this time.

Soldiers should see Wendell Johnston or Olivia Penrod, 767-9569, at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, building 100, at Stewart, in room 165 before registration deadline. For testing at the Hunter Learning Center, contact Chena Wilson or Ken Brown, building 1290, room 21 and 22, respectively. The phone number is 315-6130.

The first three tests are free for Soldiers with a mechanic MOS, but the Soldier still pays the registration fee. Recertification is not paid by DANTES; Soldier pays for all recertification tests and registration fee. Tests will begin promptly at 9 a.m. on the test days - examinees need to report at least 15 minutes prior.

Study materials can be obtained at www.ase.com, click on Prepare to test, ASE study guides, then select the test you want to take.

Company D keeps the peace in Jisr Diyala

Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Some units might have been discouraged by the way the mission went.

For four hours, Soldiers in 3rd platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment patrolled up and down the streets of Jisr Diyala. They moved slowly, making sure their Mine Resistant Armor Protected (MRAP) vehicle didn't pull down one of the hundreds of low-hanging telephone and power lines that stretched across each street like black vines. After searching several homes and abandoned warehouses, the weapon cache they were looking for never materialized. For many in the platoon, it was just another day on the job.

"It's kind of like going fishing; sometimes you catch something and sometimes you don't," said Pfc. Darrell Deshotel, from Oakdale, La., an infantryman in 3rd platoon. "We'll get it next time."

The platoon has conducted hundreds of combat patrols in Jisr Diyala since Co. D assumed responsibility of its battle space in March.

"Jisr Diyala is a very fragile area because we can't be over-

aggressive there, but we can't be too slow, either," said Sgt. 1st Class Donal Mathena, from Phenix City, Ala., platoon sergeant of 3rd platoon. "We are very cautious there. Since the ceasefire, the people there seem to be waiting. It's hard to tell what they are thinking. They could be waiting for the ceasefire to be lifted, or they could be waiting for us to clean up their streets. It's hard to tell which, to be honest."

Despite the uncertainty in Jisr Diyala, 3rd platoon continues to conduct aggressive offensive operations when necessary.

"We've grabbed every HVI (high value individual) and insurgent leader that has tried to operate there and haven't lost one guy doing it," Mathena said. "The platoon has done a good job. Instead of picking a target house, going in and ripping it apart, we have done a lot of knock and search operations. Our Soldiers have been very respectful, and I think the locals respond favorably to that. We don't allow cowboy actions in this platoon. Our guys aren't reckless. They stay professional at all times."

For many of the younger Soldiers, their current mission isn't what they expected. They had heard stories from more experienced Soldiers in 1/15 Inf. Regt. about gun battles and air assault missions. Mathena stresses to them that their current

mission, while not as exciting, is just as important.

"This is my third deployment," he said. "I've been involved in countless engagements and in past deployments saw little come from them. You talk to anyone of my guys that have been over here more than once, and they will tell you that this is the best operation they have been involved in. The Iraqi people are standing up for themselves. In the past, that wasn't always the case. I can finally see a way out, the way things are going. Things are looking up. I can say this is the most rewarding deployment I've done. I feel a huge sense of accomplishment, not in terms of medals or awards, but in terms of accomplishing our mission and making things over here better."

To his younger Soldiers, or "first-timers" as he likes to call them, Mathena motivates and assures them that their service is just as important without firefights.

"What we trained them to do was based on what we were doing last deployment," he said. "It's different this time, but they have to realize that everything they do is a 'Soldier's job.' There is no such thing as a tanker's job or a scout's job anymore. What you are trained for isn't necessarily what you will be doing."

1st Lt. Benjamin Hooker, from Shelby, Mich., platoon leader of 3rd platoon, is proud of the way his senior noncommissioned officers have handled the platoon.

"They have got our Soldiers operating within our commander's intent," he said. "They have been operating flawlessly in a sometimes fragile environment. I feel they are all very professional Soldiers that deserve a lot of credit. I couldn't ask for a better group."

Hooker said the senior NCOs have been very effective in leading troops out in the field.

"The veterans have tactical patience," he said. "They have waited for things to develop where a lot of the younger Soldiers would have rushed in."

Being patient and thorough has helped the platoon find three important caches, including one in Jisr Diyala.

"Every time we have rolled out and snatched up an HVI or a cache, it felt good," Deshotel said. "We make a difference out here every day. Our company set up the first Sons of Iraq program in 3rd Brigade's AO (area of operations). We have gotten every HVI that has tried to operate here."

These accomplishments are important to Mathena, but he is most proud of the things in his battle space that don't make headlines.

He points out that improvised explosive device attacks are down. He explains that bullets haven't been needed by his Soldiers to accomplish their missions. He believes his Soldiers have made a positive impact on everyone they encounter.

"How are we gauging success in Iraq?" he said. "Do you gauge it by how much violence and action you are seeing in your AO or do you measure it by how peaceful your area is? Do you measure it by how many shots are fired or how many projects you set up? I'm proud of everything my guys have done here because at the end of the day, they did their job and helped the people here."



Courtesy Photo

As the Soldiers in his platoon provide security, Spc. David Bougourd., an infantryman in 3rd platoon, Co. D, 1/15 Inf. Regt., pries open a door to a warehouse in Jisr Diyala, Iraq, Feb. 9.

Adwaniyah residents see brighter future

Special to the Frontline
6/8th Cav. Regt. UPAR

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Last year, the community of Adwaniyah witnessed the worst of what the insurgency brought to the people of Iraq.

There were reports of kidnappings and murders. Members of al-Qaeda in Iraq were said to have forced residents out of their homes. Soon, Adwaniyah residents realized that life under AQI would be a step backward, and they began to work with Coalition Forces to rid their community of AQI.

Adwaniyah citizens Hazim Shaker Ahmen and Riyah Yas Khudayr, both former Iraqi army officers, began working with Coalition Forces and started Sons of Iraq programs last October.

In mid-November AQI mounted an offensive against U.S. Soldiers, Iraqi Army and Sons of Iraq.

At the time, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division was the Army unit patrolling Adwaniyah. Troop B and the SoI repelled the offensive, and since then AQI members have either been detained or fled the community.

Now, Troop B, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. controls the battle space and the future of Adwaniyah is bright.

“The local leadership, the Sons of Iraq and Iraqi Army all played an important part in making this a success, and they continue to do so,” said Capt. Douglas Hoyt, Troop B, 6-8th Cav. Regt. commander, from Columbus, Ohio. “The willingness to make a stand, to sacrifice and work hard has paid off.”

In December, a SoI headquarters was set up, and a town council was established.

By January, word began to spread that the community was safer. Residents began moving back into the city and businesses started re-opening.

“The situation has gone from bad to better,” local SoI co-founder Ahmen said.

“The task has begun to improve the security, economic and employment situation and the relationship with the central Government of Iraq.”

Assisting with the improvement in security, Troop B, 6/8th Cav. Regt. established Patrol Base Dolby in the community to help keep residents safe, rebuild the infrastructure and try to boost the economy.



Courtesy photo

Spc. Joseph Torres, from Manhattan, N.Y., 6/8 Cav. Regt., 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. poses with an Iraqi boy in Adwaniyah, Iraq, Feb. 8.

5/7 Cavalry works to erode insurgent resources



Special to the Frontline
5/7th Cav. Regt. UPAR

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Nearing the end of their 15-month tour, Soldiers from Troop C, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division continue to conduct patrols providing security to residents of Al Sur Village and the surrounding area.

The Crazy Horse Troopers have denied insurgent forces access to weapons, ammunition and explosives that target both Soldiers and civilians.

Prior to the arrival of the 5/7 Cav. Regt., Al Sur village was an insurgent safe haven. Extremist forces operated freely in the area, with multiple bed-down locations and numerous cache sites.

Both have drastically decreased due to the efforts of Soldiers working with

local residents.

Local sources, recruited by tactical human intelligence teams, recently led Coalition Forces to known insurgent cache sites. The sites, located in orange and date palm orchards, contained multiple munitions and components for improvised explosive devices. Weapons found included several pipe bombs, AK-47s and ammunition, numerous rocket-propelled grenade rounds and launchers.

Two patrol explosives detection dog teams worked with the platoon to assist with the operation.

“The use of dog teams, in conjunction with local national informants, has allowed our Soldiers to find a number of large caches,” said Capt. Melvin Lowe, Troop C commander, from Pittsburgh, Pa. “The capture of these munitions will greatly degrade the enemy’s ability to conduct operations against us.”

Courtesy photo

Members of Troop C, 5/7 Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., work with dog teams to find weapon caches in Al Sur.

Soldiers provide helping hand to Khidr residents

Special to the Frontline
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – For the past two months, Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers have been making a difference in the community of Khidr, Iraq.

Khidr’s residents were formerly displaced due to al-Qaeda

operating in the area, but with the assistance of Soldiers and Sons of Iraq, families are returning home to a secure community.

Soldiers’ first priority was establishing Patrol Base Kelsey in December, during Operation Marne Roundup. The base is now occupied by Soldiers of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and members of 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 8th

Iraqi Army Division.

With security established and maintained, the new focus is rebuilding the area and improving it for residents.

Key leaders of Khidr meet with Capt. Jim Hart, commander of Company B, on a weekly basis to discuss community issues such as electricity, detainees and security.

“Everyone wants change, but it happens so gradually some people can never see it,” Hart said.

Regular services keep Kiowas scouting

Pfc. Monica K. Smith
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – Routine maintenance is required for each Army aircraft. For Apaches, Black Hawks, and Chinooks, these periods of maintenance take the aircraft out of the fight anywhere between seven and 25 days, said Sgt. 1st Class William Lott, production control noncommissioned officer in charge of Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment.

With the Kiowa, phases are broken down into 15 parts, in a process called progressive phase maintenance.

“It’s like doing a phase in pieces,” Lott said. “So instead of bringing down a bird for a month at a time, ours are down no more than a day.”

Each PPM consists of a list of tasks that must be completed within 40 flight hours. There is no set order in which to complete the tasks. This allows crew chiefs in the line troops to work with the maintenance Soldiers. As crew chiefs work on and prepare their own aircraft, they may perform any of the tasks in the PPM, which are then checked off.

“When other aircraft go into phase, they tear everything apart and that’s where they find problems whereas we check our aircraft more often so we can react a little easier,” said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Moore, maintenance platoon sergeant in Troop D. “There is safety in redundancy and with our PPMs you’re checking the aircraft all the time, like (preventative maintenance checks and services) on a truck, only a lot more in-depth.”

In addition, there are four scheduled services performed on the aircraft. These services include a 100, 200, 300 and 600-hour engine service. At the 100 and 300-hour services, a mast-mounted sight service is performed by the avionics and armament platoon of Troop D. PPMs can be included with the four services, which further reduces the amount of time aircraft are on the ground.

“Our system gives us a huge opportunity to work out pieces and parts,” Moore said. “We can complete a PPM while doing a regularly scheduled maintenance so you’re not even seeing any down time for the PPM because it’s in conjunction with the major services we’re required to do.”

By ensuring maintenance is done in a frequent and timely manner, a constant flow of Kiowas move in and out of the hangars. The Kiowas of 3/17th Cav. Regt. have an operational rate of 92 percent; at any given time, 92 percent of all aircraft within the squadron are ready to launch, said Lott.

“Without us the aircraft would not be able to fly; they would not be able to make mission every day,” Lott said.



Pfc. Monica K. Smith
Sgt. James Duddle (left) and Spc. Mark Chambers, members of Troop D, 3/17th Cav. Regt., work on a mast-mounted sight during a 300-hour service at the CAB flight line, Baghdad. During the service, the MMS will be taken apart, cleaned and its connection checked before being reattached.

Chinook still goes strong

Pfc. Monica K. Smith
3rd CAB Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – Her name is Ann and she has been deployed since 2005. She took care of troops in two different units before joining the Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division last December. She is Chinook #86-01659.

“We call her Raggedy Ann or Little Orphan Annie because she’s been around so long,” said Sgt. Jimmy Fletcher, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd CAB.

Before Raggedy Ann came to 3rd CAB, she worked with the 1st Cavalry Regiment stationed at Camp Taji. At the time, Co. B, 2/3 Avn. Regt. was using Chinook #185 but discontinued use because of cracks in its sheet metal, said Fletcher.

Chinook #185 was sent back to the United States and Ann moved to Company B.

“We spent half a day at Taji and brought it down that night,” Fletcher said.

“We flew a couple of missions and then put it in phase where 603rd (Aviation Support Battalion) spent almost a month in phase to repair all the sheet metal damage ... it runs like a champ, minus a few gremlins.”

Though few aircraft have been around as long as Ann, Chinooks as a fleet have a strong lineage dating back to the Vietnam War.

The first Chinook, designated an YHC-1B, was produced by Boeing in 1961 for the Army and Air Force as a medium-lift helicopter. Four years later, during the Vietnam War, Chinooks were first used in combat and by 1968 had logged 161,000 hours in flight, carried 22.4 million passengers and transported more than 1.3 million tons of cargo.

That heritage continues with today’s

Chinook fleets. To date, Company B has moved over 12-million pounds of cargo and 55,000 passengers, said Capt. Kurt Blankenship, commander of Co. B, 2/3 Avn. Regt.

“We move mail, (passengers), equipment, anything to keep as many trucks off the roads as possible with the (improvised explosive device) threat,” said Chief Warrant Officer Rodger Howard, standardization instructor pilot with Co. B, 2/3 Avn. Regt.

“We take everyone: Army, Marines, Air Force, the Special Forces guys, foreign soldiers, prisoners, anyone who asks or needs to be moved.”

After the Vietnam War, plans were developed to upgrade the fleet of A, B and C-models into what is now the CH-47D. In 1982 the first D-model aircraft were delivered; the upgrade was completed in 1994. Since then, only two D-model aircraft were created to replace aircraft losses during the Persian Gulf War, making some of the D-models’ airframes more than 40-years-old.

It’s the same airframe, but it’s been remanufactured,” said Lt. Col. Alex Covert, commander of 2/3 Avn. Regt. “Helicopters in general are maintenance-intensive. With Chinooks, every 25, 50, 100, 200 and 400 hours there is a scheduled inspection. A lot of times we replace parts or items. You almost rebuild it completely, but it’s essentially the same airframe.”

The constant inspecting and maintaining of the aircraft adds to the Chinooks’ durability over the years.

“The Chinooks have a lot of inspections for safety and the replacement of parts,” said Staff Sgt. Daniel Enus, Co. B, 2/3 Avn. Regt. “As long as we follow the maintenance program set forth, the birds will last forever.”



Pfc. Monica K. Smith
Staff Sgt. Daniel Enus, Company B, 2/3 Avn., 3rd CAB, washes Chinook #659, dubbed Raggedy Ann, Feb. 16 at the CAB, 3rd Inf. Div. flight line, Baghdad.

Logistics Soldiers surpass milestone, support combat operations



Sgt. Kisha Braham
Soldiers from Company A, 603rd ASB Supply Support Activity Platoon stand in formation waiting to be presented certificates of achievement for processing 100,000 Material Release Orders in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Feb. 2.

1st Lt. Garrett Gandia
3rd CAB Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – Aviation support Soldiers at Baghdad International Airport held a ceremony Feb. 2 in recognition of having processed over 100,000 repair parts and equipment to support combat operations in Multi-National Division - Center.

The Supply Support Activity Platoon, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, was presented with a certificate of achievement by Lt. Col. William McGarrity, 603rd ASB commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Dawson, 603rd ASB.

“I am proud of the focus my Soldiers and civilian contractors bring to work every-day,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dempsey Walker, SSA platoon sergeant, Co. A, 603rd ASB. “This is a prime example of how teamwork has allowed us to accomplish our mission and surpass our goals,”

Since deploying, Soldiers of the SSA Platoon have battled several obstacles. As part of the surge force, the 3rd CAB didn’t “fall in” on an existing system of logistics, which meant the Soldiers of SSA Platoon had to create a system of supplying the 3rd CAB virtually from scratch. An abandoned Iraqi warehouse, with a missing wall, was refurbished and became the center of operations for the SSA Soldiers and civilian contractors.

The SSA maintains an authorized list of 4,200 lines of parts and supplies, worth an estimated \$115 million. Additionally, the turn-in section has sent over \$241 million of unused aircraft and vehicle repair parts back into the Army supply system.

“This shows that we have been doing our jobs well. This event reflects the outstanding job we are doing as [Automated Supply Specialists], even though we are in a combat zone,” said Spc. Shaunda Mason, Co. A, 603rd ASB.

Keeping aircraft in service, out of the hangar



Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Spc. Christopher Bird, Co. D, 2/3 Avn. repairs a Black Hawk troop cargo door track Feb. 11 at the CAB flight line, Baghdad.

Pfc. Monica K. Smith
3rd CAB Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – In the Combat Aviation Brigade, line companies can quantify the amount of work they do by the number of hours they fly, or the pounds of equipment or the number of troops they move. For members of Company D, success is quantified in the number of aircraft they keep out of the hangar.

“Helicopters are combat multipliers but as you probably already know they require a lot of maintenance, both daily, unscheduled and cyclical,” said Lt. Nick Cahill, executive officer of Co. D, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. “Delta Company’s role is to ensure that the battalion’s aircraft are mission capable in a safe and timely manner.”

The company is broken into three platoons, headquarters, maintenance and shops. The headquarters platoon

consists of offices such as technical supply, production control, quality control and the aviation life support equipment.

Among other responsibilities, these offices deal with the ordering of aircraft supplies, maintaining records of flight hours and the maintaining of aircraft and aviators.

“We make sure we’re working on what’s important, not just what’s important to the crew chiefs, but what’s important to make those birds fly,” said Sgt. Timothy Davis, production control noncommissioned officer in charge. “There’s a difference between something that can be fixed and something that needs to be fixed. We make sure our priorities are coordinating.”

The maintenance platoon handles both scheduled and unscheduled maintenance on Black Hawks and Chinooks within the battalion. This platoon performs all scheduled maintenance up to, which takes the stress

off the crew chiefs.

“Some of the major scheduled inspections, like the 120-hour phase on the Black Hawk, requires a lot of heavy maintenance and a little more personnel and we relieve that load off the crew chiefs,” said Sgt. William Canady, Co. D, 2/3rd Avn. Regt. “We’re a key part because without us the crew chief wouldn’t be able to fly the aircraft because they don’t have the personnel and time to fly missions and do the maintenance that needs to be done. We’re the backbone. We keep aircraft in the sky.”

“The maintenance shop is 24-hour operations,” said Lt. Laura Naigle, Co. D, 2/3rd Avn. Regt. “Maintenance never stops until the aircraft is ready. So when B Co., (2/3 Avn. Regt., the Chinook company) goes on a mission and they come back with a problem, we work on it till it’s fixed so by the following day the aircraft is repaired and fully capable for the mission that day.”

HELP

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Several of these deaths and near-fatal attempts were related to relationship and Family stress. Several others were related to the current war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Several, and some may believe all, could have been prevented.

In compliance with the Army’s goal for 2008, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield is working to help lower these alarming Soldier suicide rates by increasing suicide awareness.

As most of the 3rd Infantry Division is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, stress is high. Fifteen-month deployments can stir up even more stress, but stress does not necessarily disappear when the troops return home.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team is scheduled to begin filtering back from Iraq next month. To many it’s a time to rejoice; happy to see Family, happy to be home. But what about those who say ‘I’m tired, too tired to go on?’

Detecting early signs and symptoms of suicidal behavior is critical, it may save a life. Stewart-Hunter chaplains provide Soldiers with suicide prevention training that details typical signs and symptoms of suicidal behavior. This training is derived from Department of Defense statistics which show a trend in sui-

cides and suicidal attempts over the past years.

“It’s really about taking care of Soldiers,” said Chap. (Capt.) Tom Allen, Medical Activity chaplain. “The bottom line is – it starts with the battle buddy.”

Allen said that some wounded Soldiers in the Warriors in Transition unit tend to have feelings classified as suicidal detections; loneliness, hopelessness, worthlessness, helplessness, and guilt, more so than other troops.

“(The Soldier) feels lonely, he’s not with the unit anymore,” Allen said. “He feels worthless sometimes because he does not have the ability to do the job that he wants to do. He feels hopeless, doesn’t know if he is going to recover or not. He feels helpless because of his injury, and he feels guilty because his guys are down range fighting and he’s back here.”

Allen said other signs to look for are if the Soldier is withdrawn, sad, has a lack of energy or weight change.

“However, the number one reason a Soldier commits suicide is a bad relationship,” Allen said.

Allen said that Soldiers can also help identify potential suicide if a victim talks about it, gives away possessions, has relationship prob-

lems, withdrawals from friends, has recently been in trouble, or has a problem with drugs and alcohol.

“Look at changes in behavior, things that Soldiers do that is out of the ordinary for them,” he said.

Allen advises Soldiers and Family members to escort a Soldier with suicidal behavior to the Behavioral Health department at Winn Army Community Hospital or the emergency room if Behavioral Health is closed.

“You never leave a Soldier alone who is thinking about suicide,” he said.

Behavioral Health has a licensed medical psychologist or psychiatrist who can medically examine the victim. If the victim is proved to be suicidal through the evaluation, they then become an inpatient.

“A lot of the patients (at Behavioral Health) are (suicidal),” Allen said. “They’ll go through individual encounters with the doctor and group sessions with other people until they are deemed no longer a threat to themselves and can be released.”

Battle buddies, or Soldier-comrades, are not the only ones who can help. Family members can help prevent suicides as well.

“They (Families) can be there for one

another and support one another,” Allen said. “They can be there to listen to their stories and issues. They can encourage (their Soldier) to seek medical help, be proactive in supporting them, and help them to find the supporting resources.”

In addition to the chaplains and the hospital there are other resources you can turn to if you or someone you know is suicidal: Army Well Being Liaison Office at (1-800) 833-6622, the Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline at (1-800) 984-8523, Emergency at 911, www.armyfamilyonline.org or (1-800) 833-6622, www.militaryonesource.com or (1-800) 342-9647, the National Suicide Hotline at (1-800) SUICIDE, and www.suicidepreventionlife.org or (1-800) 273-TALK (8255).

“I think we can do a better job at taking care of Soldiers and Families,” Allen said. “I know that’s the Army’s goal, but in reality the mission comes first. Sometimes that mission coming first does push Soldiers who need to get some help back out on the frontline when they really need to receive care.”

“We don’t need to lose another body to the fight.”